

EPISODE #86  
April 22, 1993

# The Valley **COMIC**

N • E • W • S



## ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

### STORIES:

TERROR FIRMA

VIOLENCE SONATA

SPENDING A MESSAGE TO THE COUNTRY

THE WAGES OF SIN

BEYOND POLITIX

MISC. & MATCH

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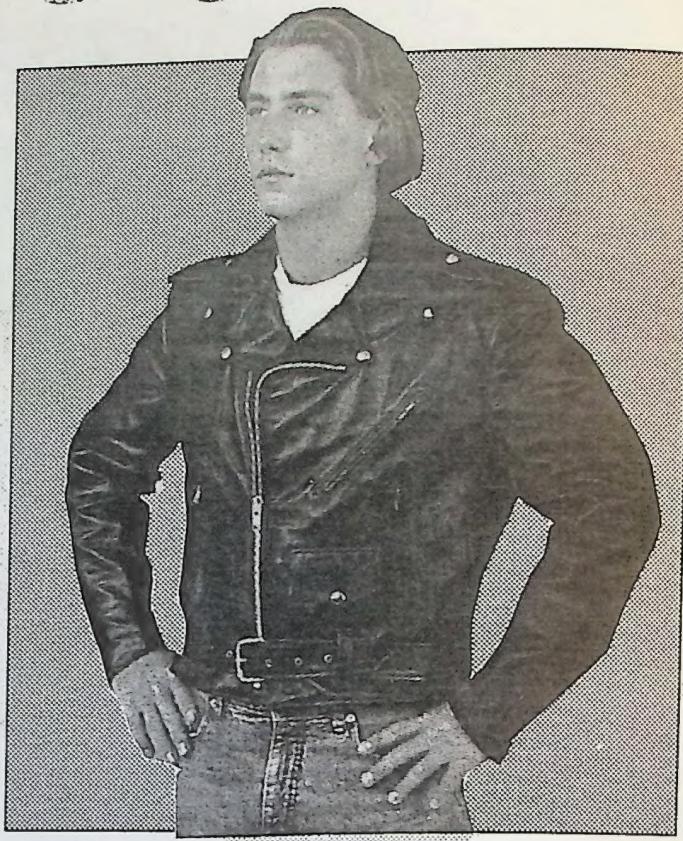
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# PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman

DWM: Tall, athletic walks, city into New Age sense. Seeks S/DV the arts, gourmet cats, N/S, active ir-

soulmate — I know you're out there."

And they probably sit around expecting their soulmate to read their ad and go, "Yo, I like to walk on the beach, too! True love!!"

I have only one question for everybody who writes personal ads: How come *every single one of you* loves walking on the beach? The only thing you love even *remotely* as much is sitting in front of fireplaces. If everybody who said they loved walking on the beach actually walked on the beach, there wouldn't be any room for the rest of us to sit down, much less swim. All you'd see would be single beach-walkers as far as the horizon.

Furthermore, how many times during a year can you walk on the beach? Six? Twenty? Say you go every weekend all summer and walk twice a day — that's  $12 \times 2 \times 2 = 48$  beachwalks, not counting three-day weekends. What do you do with the rest of your life?

And that's not the only thing I can't figure out about the personals. One local paper runs a personals section where people keep saying they're DTE. Of course they don't tell you what this means anywhere in the paper. They tell you what S and D and M and F mean. They mention W and B and L and Bi and NS (no smoking). They even clue you in to SOH (sense of humor). But I had to actually call the newspaper to find out what DTE is all about. And then the person who answered said she'd just come back after a two-month leave, and she didn't know what it meant. She put me on hold to go ask. Get this: it means "Down To Earth." Down To Earth??? As opposed to what? Are lots of personal advertisers saying they're SS (Space Shots)? MIO (Mostly In Orbit)? OC (Ozone Cookies)? These DTE people might as well put: "I'm too nice to exist, I'm hopelessly cliché-ridden, my life is dripping with smarmy drivel, I've never had an original thought in my life. Seeking same."

The worst part is, there'd probably be a slew of answers to that ad, all reading more or less like: "Clichés are my life," and "Smarmy Drivel is my middle name."

All I know is — if I ever advertised through the personals, it'd be about stuff I really go for. It'd say: "I like falling asleep, having the wishbone break in my favor, making every green light between Northampton and Amherst, some cool personal stuff I'd never disclose in an ad like this, and early Italian Renaissance art. B/Y/O feather boa and plastic tubing." That'd start the letters rolling in.

## The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

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17 • Siena Chrisman c 1993 The Valley Comic News

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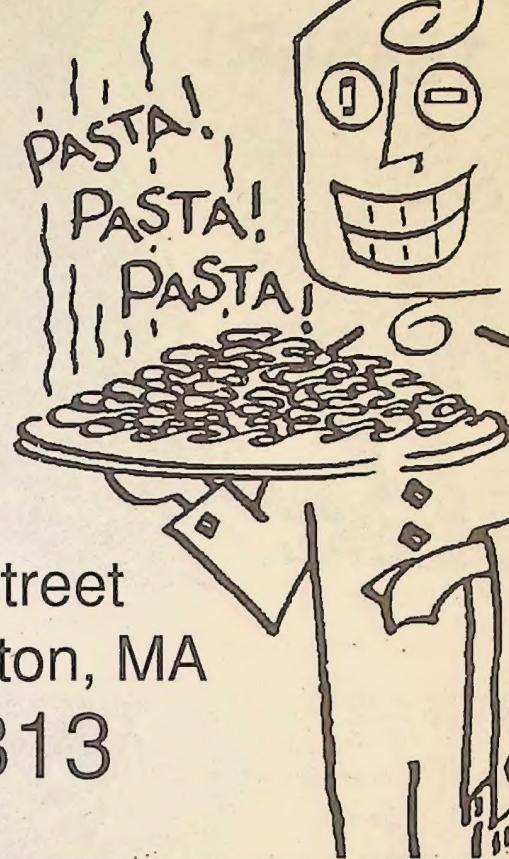
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## Great Shades

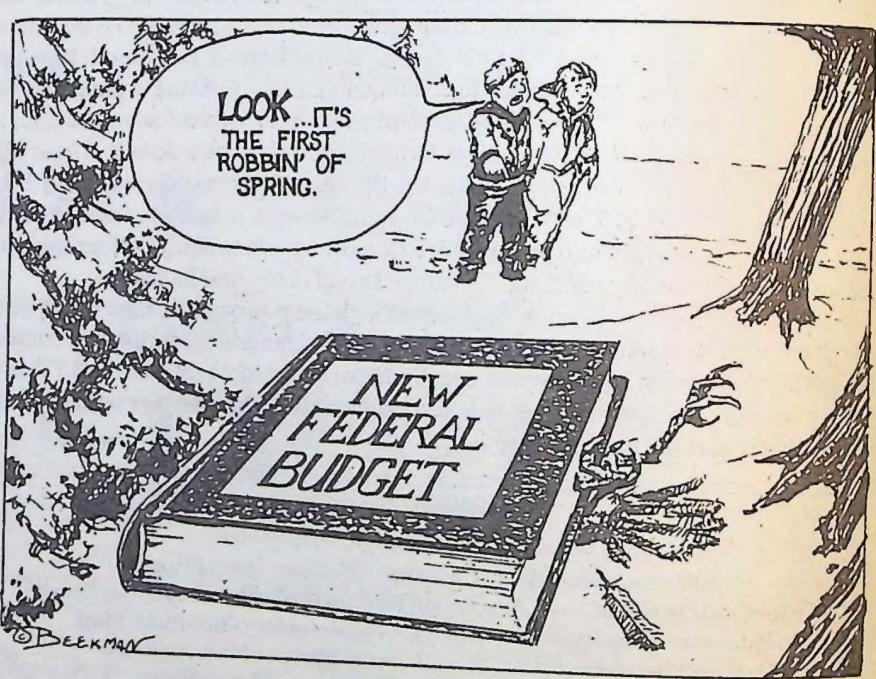
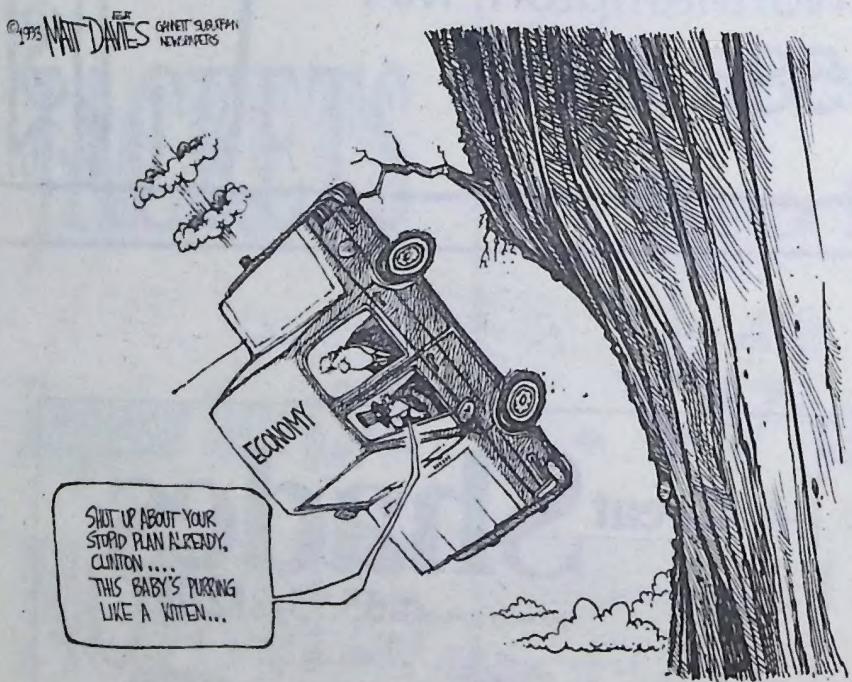
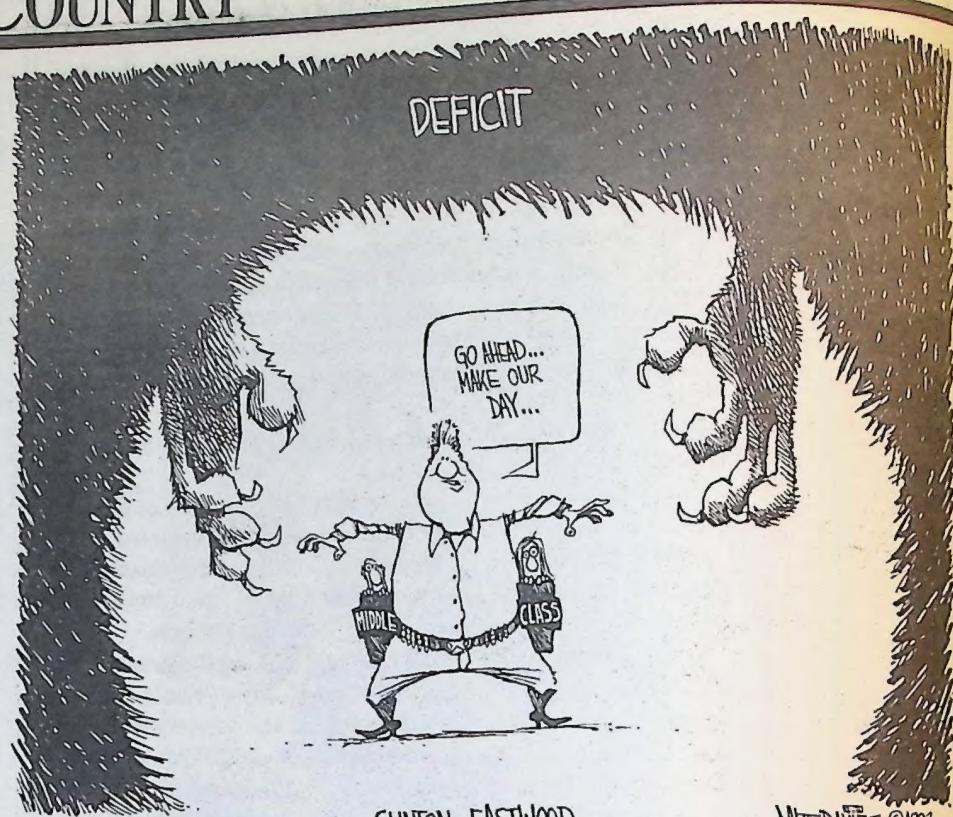
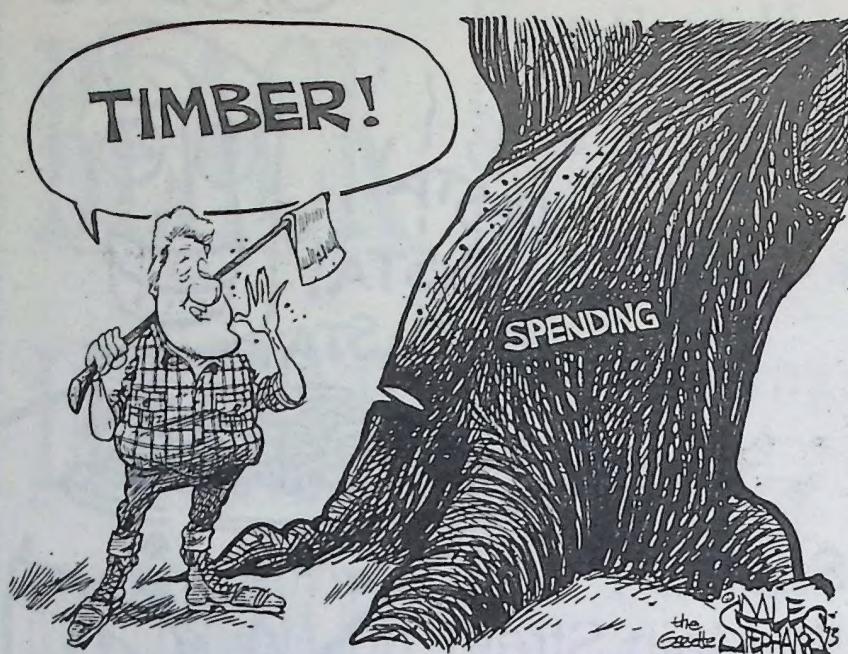
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main st. • 7 days

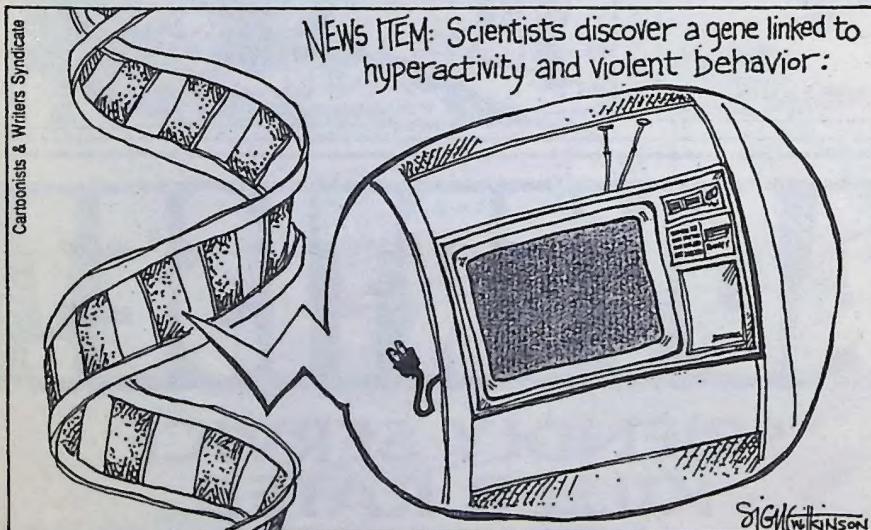
# SPENDING A MESSAGE TO THE COUNTRY



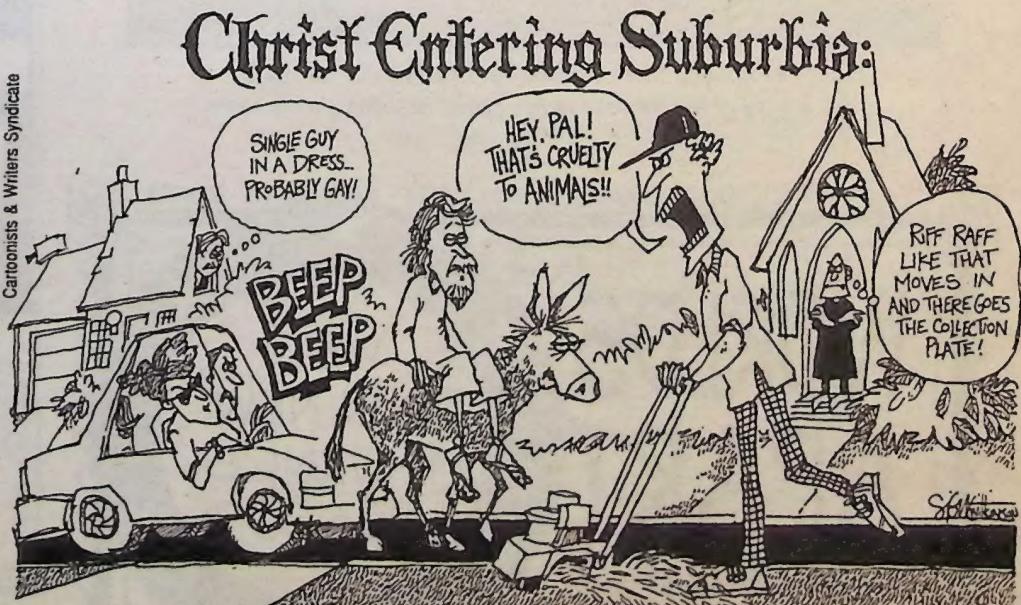
# MISC. & MATCH



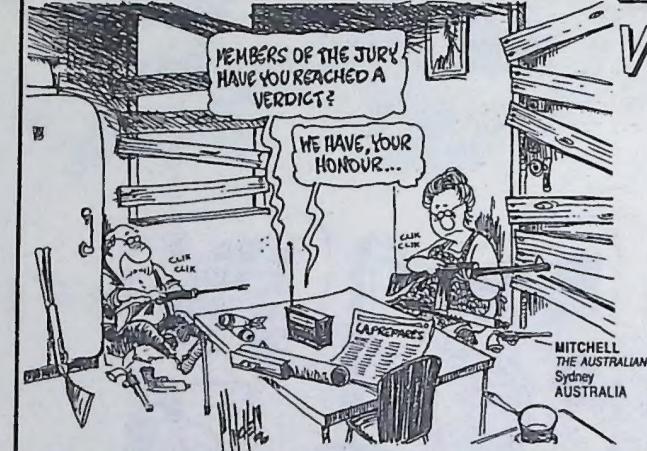
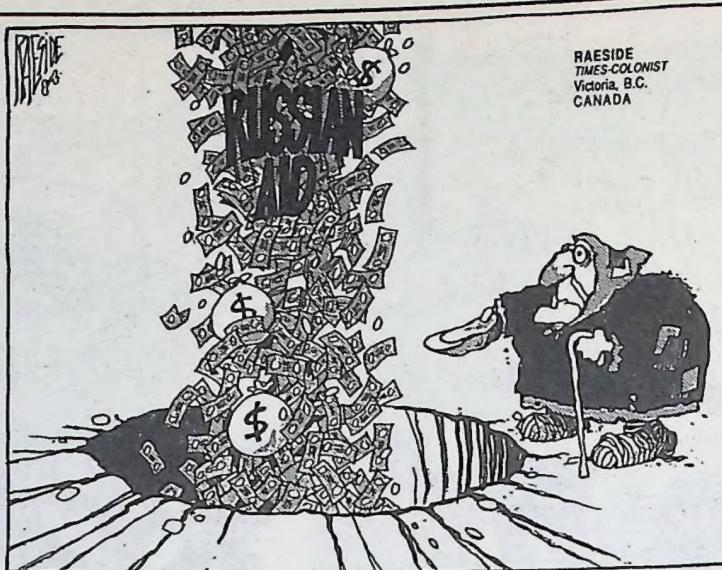
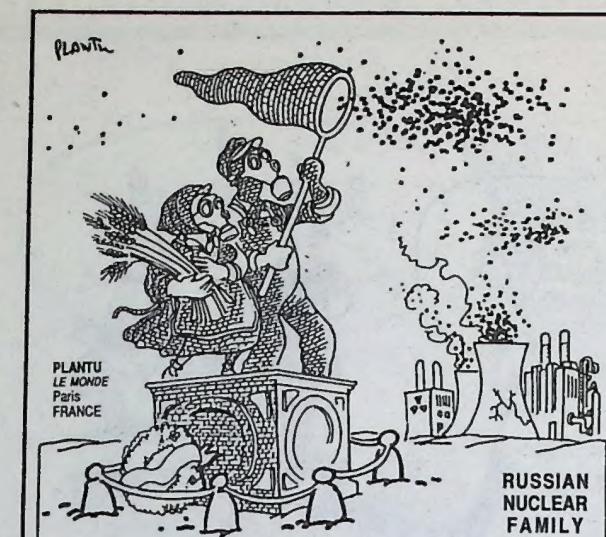
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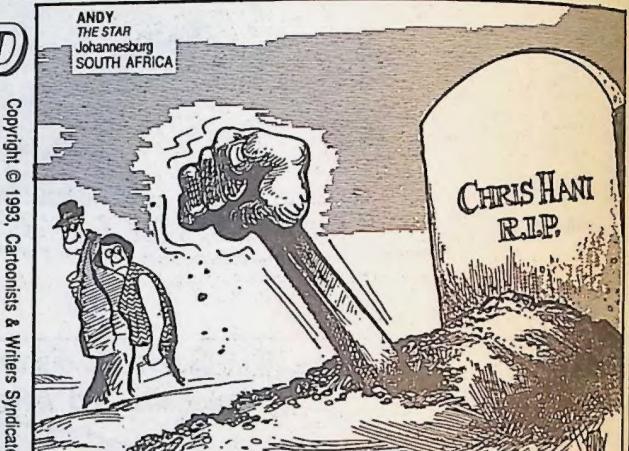
Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate



# VIEWS OF THE WORLD



VIEWS of the WORLD



Slena Chrisman relaxes outside her favorite Alaskan café with a copy of her favorite newspaper: The Valley Comic News

# ADVERTISE!

FRIENDLY SERVICE  
KILLER RATES  
NO MESS

IT WORKS.  
ASK ANYONE.

# VALLEY COMIC NEWS

Contact: 413/586/2274

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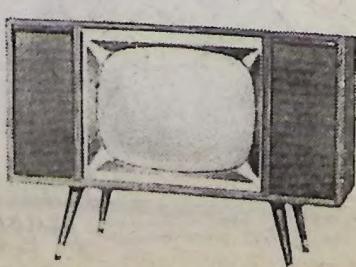
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First Floor Thorne's Marketplace  
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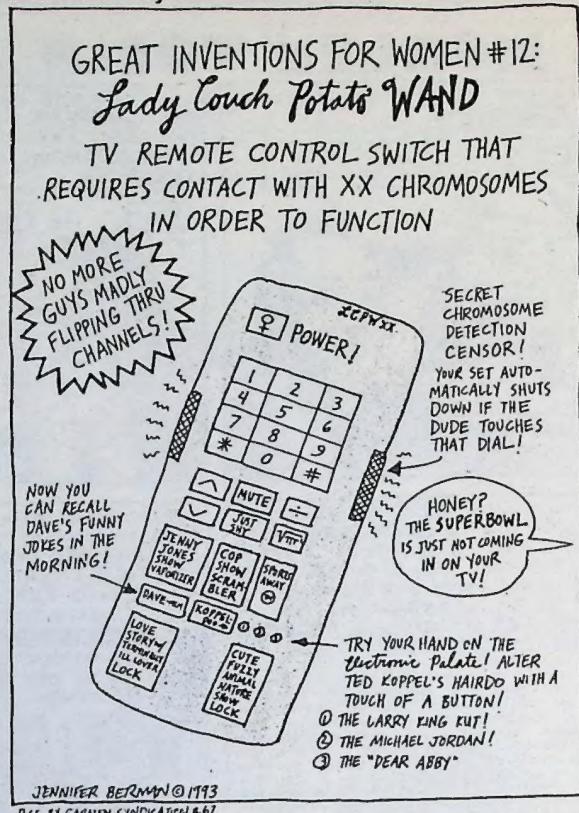
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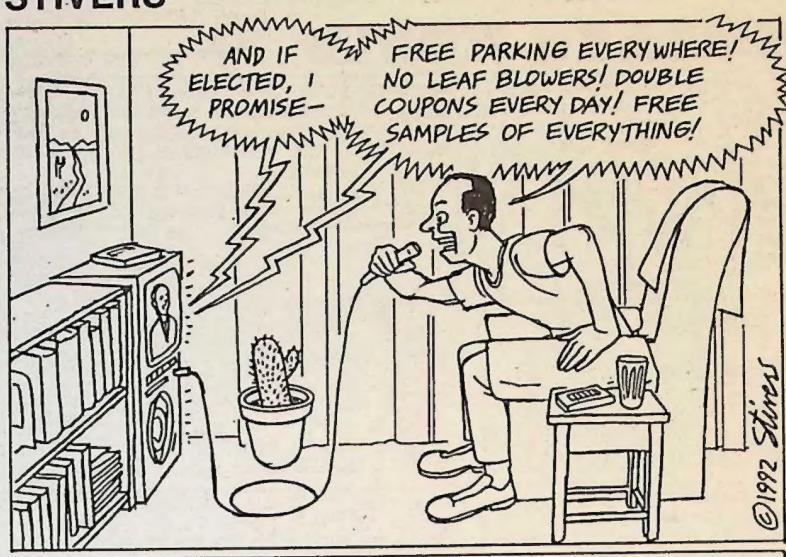


# BEYOND POLITIX

BERMAN by Jennifer Berman

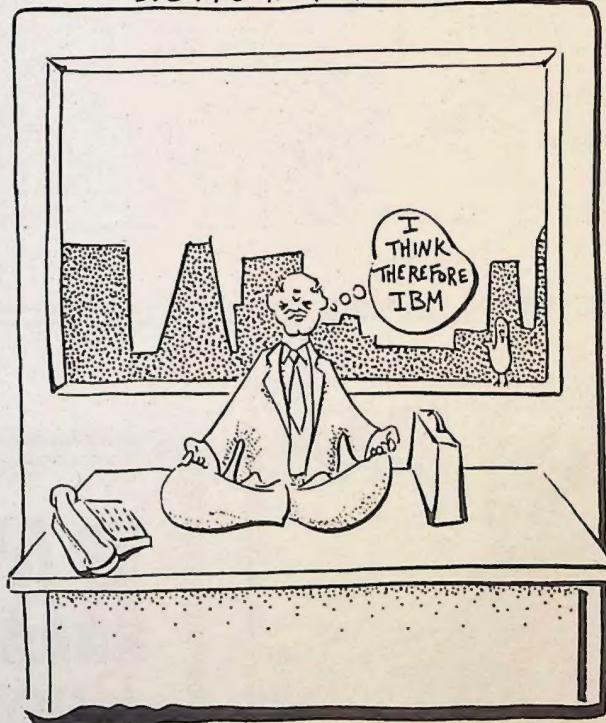


STIVERS

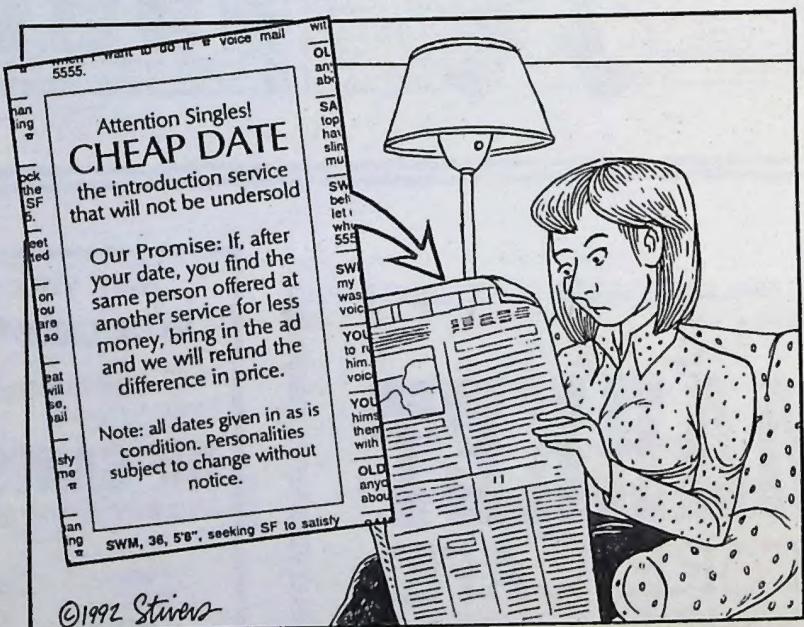


New from our catalog: Political Karaoke! Professionally produced political speeches with the issues left out — for you to fill in!

BECOMING ONE WITH THE DOW



STIVERS



LEHMAN by Andrew Lehman

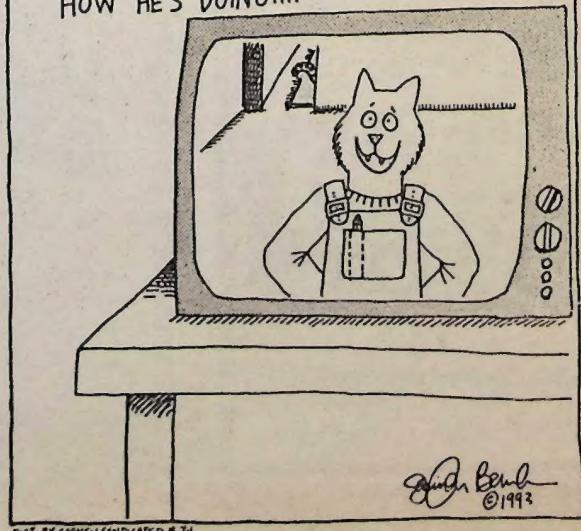


IN AN UGLY GRAB FOR POWER SNAP, CRACKLE, AND POP ATTEMPT TO OUST THE TOOTH FAIRY, JACK FROST, AND THE SANDMAN FROM THEIR TRADITIONAL POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE.

BERMAN by Jennifer Berman

PBS FOR CATS

WELCOME TO THEIR OLD HOUSE!  
TONIGHT WE CONTINUE TO SEARCH AND DESTROY PRICELESS HEIRLOOMS. JOE'S SPRAYING THE ORIENTAL RUG. LET'S SEE HOW HE'S DOING....



# THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

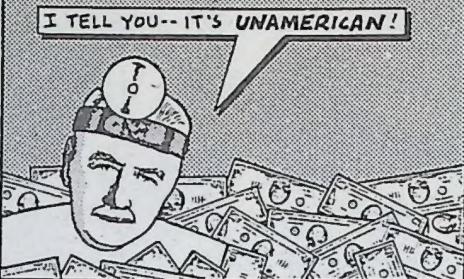
## THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 4-6-93

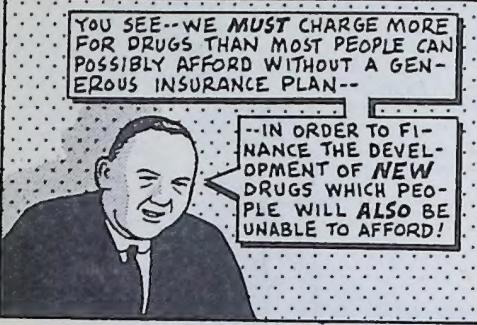
CONSIDERING THAT IN 1980, THE TOP TAX RATE WAS 70%, CLINTON'S TAX HIKES ARE RELATIVELY MODEST... STILL, SOME PANIC-STRicken CONSERVATIVES SEEM TO BELIEVE A SOCIALIST TAKE-OVER OF THE UNITED STATES HAS BEGUN...



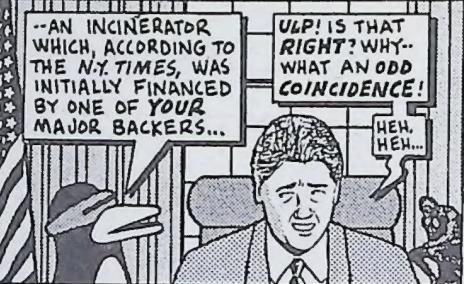
THE MEDICAL INDUSTRY CONSIDERS CLINTON A WILD-EYED RADICAL FOR PROPOSING THAT GOVERNMENT SHOULD SOMEHOW INTERVENE TO GUARANTEE AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE...



PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS CLAIM CLINTON'S CRAZY, LEFT-WING NOTION OF REGULATING DRUG PRICES WOULD HAVE DISASTROUS CONSEQUENCES...



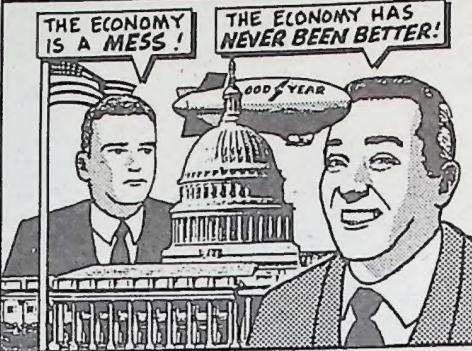
OF COURSE, CLINTON'S CONSERVATIVE CRITICS WERE SILENT ON ONE RECENT OCCASION--WHEN HE APPROVED THE STARTUP OF A CONTROVERSIAL TOXIC WASTE INCINERATOR IN OHIO... DESPITE PROMISES TO THE CONTRARY BY AL GORE...



## THIS MODERN WORLD

TOM TOMORROW © 4-13-93

IN POLITICS, REALITY SEEMS TO BE LARGELY A MATTER OF PERSPECTIVE.



AS ISSUES ARE DEBATED, ALL SIDES STRUGGLE TO APPEAR OBJECTIVE--ESCHewing EMOTIONAL ARGUMENTS IN FAVOR OF THE SEEING RATIONALITY OF NUMBERS AND STATISTICS.



ECONOMISTS ARE MASTERS OF THIS, PASSING OFF THEIR OPINIONATED GUESSWORK AS A SCIENCE... IGNORING THE FACT THAT TO TRULY COMPREHEND THE VAST WEB OF INTERDEPENDENCY WHICH CONSTITUTES OUR ECONOMY, YOU'D HAVE TO BE AN EXPERT IN THE PROBLEMS OF, AND INTERACTIONS BETWEEN:

advertising agencies, airlines, appliance makers, architects, attorneys, automobile companies, ball bondsmen, bakers, banks, barkeeps, beauticians, bicycle makers, bookstores, bottlers, breweries, carpet dealers, cartoonists, chimney sweeps, chiropractors, computer companies, concrete mixers, construction companies, copy shops, delicatessens, dentists, doctors, dry cleaners, electrician engineers, farmers, florists, funeral homes, furriers, graphic artists, grocers, hardware stores, housepainters, hospitals, hotels, insurance companies, lumber companies, jewelers, landscapers, movers, movie studios, opticians, pawnbrokers, pharmacists, printers, radio stations, used car dealers, temporary help, television manufacturers,

ALMOST EVERY TOPIC OF PUBLIC DEBATE IS EQUALLY COMPLEX... NO SINGLE INDIVIDUAL CAN POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND IT ALL... AND YET, THERE'S CERTAINLY NO SHORTAGE OF SELF-STYLED EXPERTS CLAIMING TO HAVE SIMPLE, DEFINITIVE ANSWERS...



Photo: Jennifer Burdick

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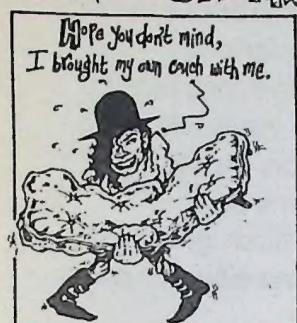
BOX 463 HAYDENVILLE, MA 01039



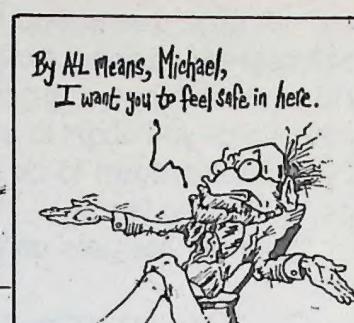
# LOCAL HEROES

*Star Shrinker*

©P.Roud.



...one can't be too careful with other people's germs.



By ALL means, Michael,  
I want you to feel safe in here.

by Dr. ROWDY illustrations: K. SEIDEL.

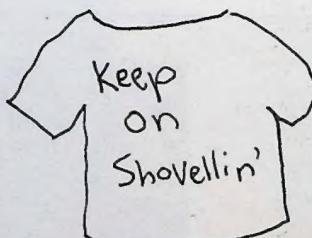
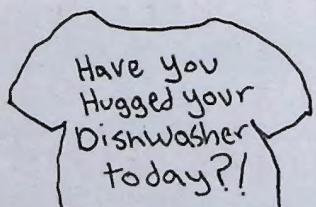
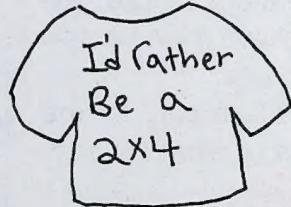


In that case,  
would you mind wearing  
this?

8-92.

B Bargain

T- shirts



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# JOE BOB BRIGGS

Has anybody ever gone to a marriage counselor and actually *fixed* their marriage?

I mean, what's the batting average here? After about 80 years of having this profession, aren't we hitting about .001? Don't you have a better chance of spending one quarter and hitting a progressive million-dollar slot-machine payoff at the Dunes Hotel?

Whoever dreamed up this idea in the first place?

First you yell at each other for a year. Then you go pay *money* to a complete stranger to tell you what you're yelling about.

And how do they know what you're yelling about?

They assume you're yelling about the same things their *other* patients are yelling about.

They say things like, "It's very common in a marriage for a wife to feel...."

And you wanna say, "Hey,

Bozo! I don't care what's *common*. I wanna know how leaving my socks on the floor ends up as World War III."

And so they say, "Obviously the socks issue is bringing up something much deeper in your relationship. It symbolizes a frustration that...." Blah blah blah blah blah, and after awhile you don't know what they're talking about.

And then they always use the word "communication" over and over and over again.

"This is not about intimacy," they'll say. "This is about communication."

And, excuse me for being the dimwit I am, but I never understand what *anybody* means — psychologists, feminists, ethnic groups, professors — when they start talking about "communication." What they seem to be saying is, "There's no problem here. You're just expressing yourself

wrong." And so you spend the next 17 hours figuring out exactly how to express things, and going over the words you ought to use, until you distill it down to its essence, something like:

"This old bat gets on my nerves."

Or: "This lazy creep is never around when I need him."

And then the therapist goes, "Good! This is very good progress. Now we can deal with those feelings."

And then the old bat and the lazy creep go home and start arguing about the same stuff they were arguing about before, except now they have a *whole new set of words* to use.

"You're listening to the non-verbal part of what I'm saying!"

"You have no feelings! You only argue on the intellectual plane!"

And pretty soon it's time to

go put another 200 bucks in the marriage counselor's till.

Have there ever been two marriages even *remotely* alike in the whole history of marriage?

I don't think so.

If it was such great advice, you wouldn't have to pay money for it.

To discuss the meaning of life with Joe Bob, or to get his world-famous newsletter, write Joe Bob Briggs, PO Box 2002, Dallas TX 75221. **COPYRIGHT 1993 CREATORS SYNDICATE, INC.**



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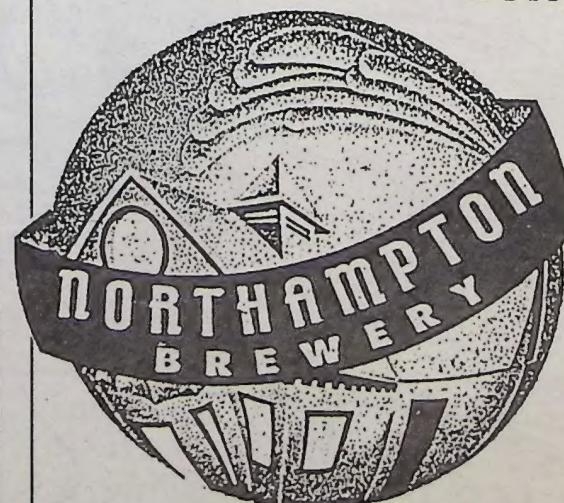
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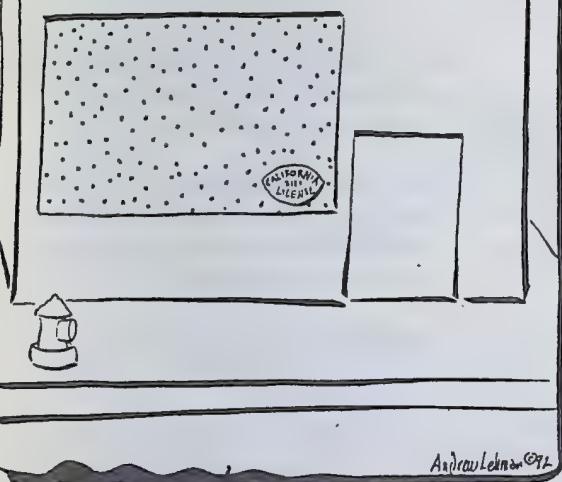
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# BEYOND POLITIX

67 67 67

BERMAN by Jennifer Berman

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CREATING FILLINGS BEFORE CAVITIES APPEAR



Andrew Lehman©92

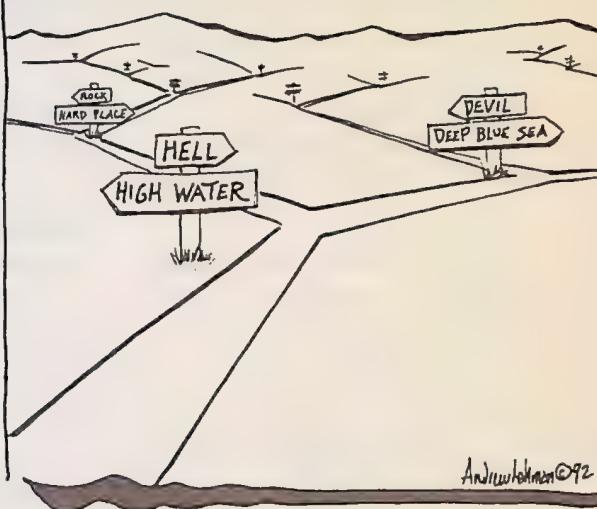
GLORIA'S ABSENCE OF PERSONAL BOUNDARIES  
OFTEN GOT HER INTO TROUBLE.

HI! MY NAME'S GLORIA.  
ALLOW ME TO TELL YOU ALL  
THE HEARTWRENCHING DETAILS  
ABOUT MY TRAGIC  
CHILDHOOD....



DIST. BY CARMEN SYNDICATION #73

LEHMAN by Andrew Lehman



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There may be other comics...  
There may be other news...  
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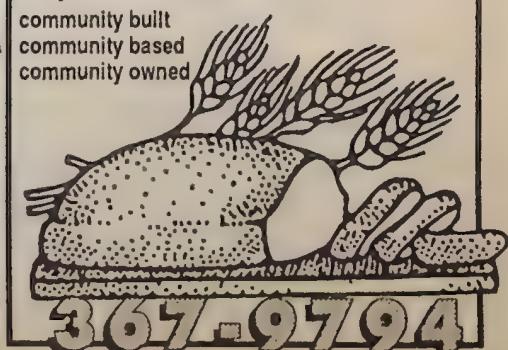


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# TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

When icebergs calve off heavy glaciers, the broken faces are always blue. Great weight compresses the ice crystals so they absorb all the colors except blue.

Q. Can you stare down a tiger?  
A. Supposedly. Experts claim the tiger always kills from behind, and won't attack you if you're staring at it.

The signal a baseball umpire uses to call strikes — the upraised right arm — originated with an umpire named Cy Rigler, of Massillon, Ohio.

In 1978 the Colorado legislature outlawed the apostrophe in Pike's Peak.

At least 100,000 people in Europe live all their lives on barges.

In a Navajo marriage, the wife owns both the land and the house. Typically, she brings into the partnership a flock of sheep she's tended since childhood.

Astronauts in orbit say they see the wakes of ships at sea.

Human hair cells divide rapidly. So do cancer cells. Cancer chemotherapy attacks all rapidly-dividing cells in the body, which is why chemo patients' hair falls out.

Q. What's the most popular main dish in the United States?  
A. Fried chicken.

The word "conclave," meaning "meeting" originally was two words: "con" and "clave," meaning "with keys." Or "private meeting."

Researchers claim you burn half again as much gasoline when there's snow on the road.

It was the Baron de Rothschild who said the eighth wonder of the world is compound interest.

Another way to find a dropped contact lens is to vacuum the area — with the attachment covered by pantyhose.

Tahiti's tides vary less than a foot.

It's said of Thomas Edison that on average he produced a patentable device every two weeks of his life.

A contributor to this column, who identifies herself as a creative mother who is tired of clichés, says she tells her children: "When you leave a room, turn on the dark."

At one time in the fairly recent past, dentures were made with real teeth, extracted by "tooth-drawers" from soldiers fallen in battle. Well-to-do Englishmen bragged about their "Waterloo teeth." During the U.S. Civil War, barrels of teeth were shipped to Europe.

All Tasmanian snakes are poisonous.

The sand on Siesta Key off Sarasota, Fla., is said to be 99 percent quartz — the whitest and purest sand anywhere in the United States.

Two-thirds of the people over 100 years old are women.

If the earth were the size of a basketball, its surface would be smoother than a basketball's.

Q. How long does it take for mice to make love?  
A. Five seconds.

Q. How many revolutions, if any, does a perfect knuckleball make on its way to home plate?

A. Half a revolution.

For a couple of weeks out of each month during the winters at the poles, you can see the moon circling the sky 24 hours a day.

The average age of golf caddies in Scotland is 50.

Both surgeons and patients agree that the second facelift almost invariably looks more natural than the first.

Computer data-gatherers report that roughly 35 percent of all computers are left on overnight and on weekends.

West Point started the tradition of class rings.

Most mammals — and most birds — mate in daylight.

Producers of knee-pads say the best thing that ever happened to them was the skateboard.

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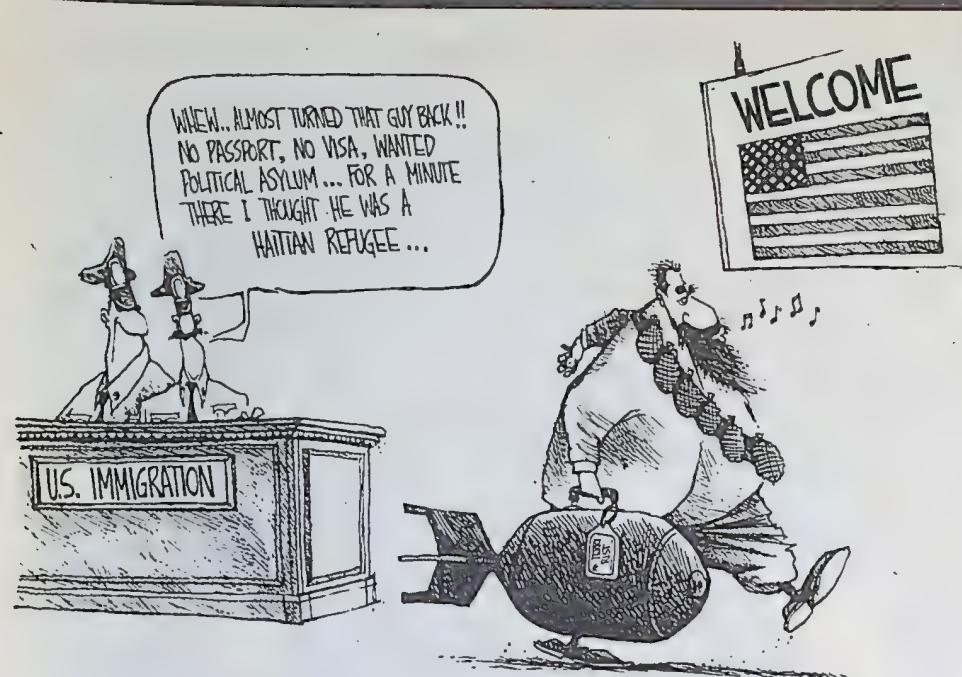
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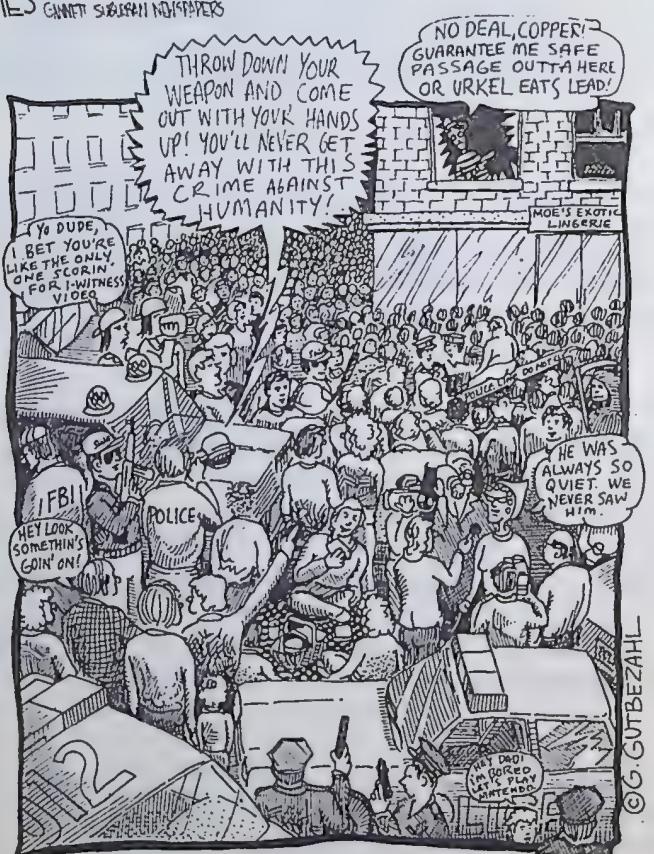
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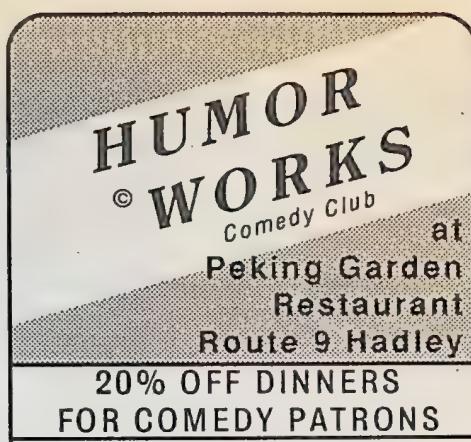
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Sat., Apr. 24 • 9:00 pm  
THE SIGHTS  
THE FRESH KILLS  
HYDROX

Tues., Apr. 27 • 8:00 pm • 18+  
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Thur., Apr. 29 • 8:30 pm • 18+  
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May Day Celebration  
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Sat., May 8 • 9:00 pm  
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Tues., May 11 • 8:00 pm • 18+  
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**THU**  
TWENTYTWO

**FRI**  
TWENTYTHREE

**SAT**  
TWENTYFOUR

**SUN**  
TWENTYFIVE

**MON**  
TWENTYSIX

**TUE**  
TWENTYSEVEN

**WED**  
TWENTYEIGHT

# WEEKENDS



**Iron Horse:** Ad Vielle Que Pourra **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret — Pajama Slave Dancers, Rock Gods From Chicopee, Pan Gloss **Dave's Other Place:** Art Steele **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Pearl Street:** Back In Black (AC/DC tribute), Mostly Holy **Alley Oops:** DJ Bobby C—all requests **Academy of Music:** Indochine, The Crying Game **Charlemont Inn:** open mic

**Alley Oops:** Paris **Dave's Other Place:** Charles Langford **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Polynesian Show **Hotel Northampton:** Mark Malucci, Charlie Schmidt **Pearl Street:** Pop Black, Michael Gregory **Iron Horse:** The Roches **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** Funniest Person Around Campus — Preliminary Laugh-Off **Baystate Hotel:** Mark Nomad Blues Band, The Nightcrawlers **Green River Cafe:** Pan Morrigan **Vertex:** Testament, Green Jello **Northampton Center for the Arts:** The Hand to Surface Tour '93 — Red Helmut Discipline, Hector, Sunk in the Funk **Charlemont Inn:** The Bombastics

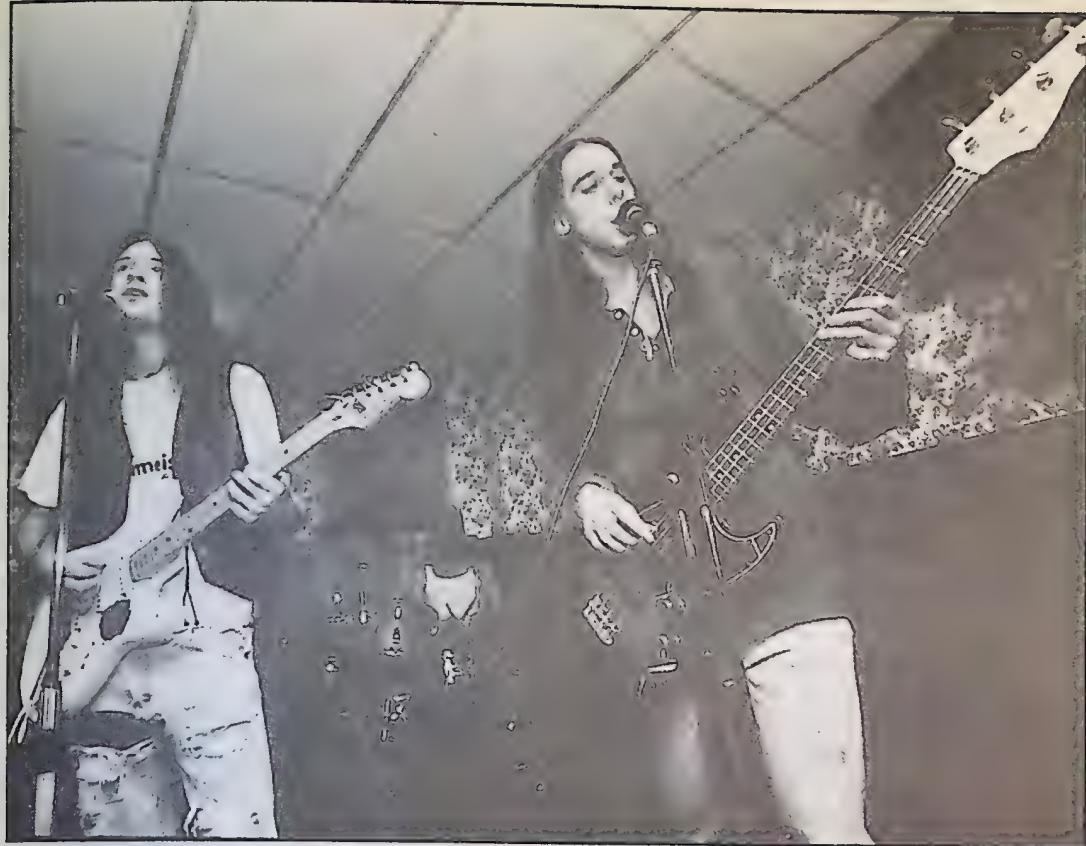
**Vertex:** Selectrocution **Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret — Vestrymen (record release), Super Eight, featuring Dave Champagne and Ellen Cross, Pooka Stew **Green River Cafe:** Rent Party **Hotel Northampton:** Charlie Schmidt, Dave Brunelle **Iron Horse:** The Roches **Pearl Street:** The Sighs, The Fresh Kills, Hydrox **Huke Lau/ Comedy Connection:** Bob Nelson **Charlemont Inn:** Riverfront Jump **Alley Oops:** Paris **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** The Big-Time Jazz/Blues Festival w/ Joe Sallins **Peking Garden/Humor Works:** Brendan McMahon, Jen Deane, Sue Costello **Shea Theater:** (AM) Sarah Plain And Tall — Pioneer Valley Ballet, (PM) Julia Burrough, Michael Nix, chorus from Amandla (Survival Center Benefit) **Amherst College:** Bobcat Goldthwait

**Iron Horse:** David Wilcox, Deborah Levoy **Green River Cafe:** "Isn't It Nice?" — musical cabaret **Amherst College:** Maura O'Connell **Vertex:** Lachrymator, United Hardcore

**Baystate Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse:** Poetry Slam **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Readers & Writers, Live! — Margaret Lloyd

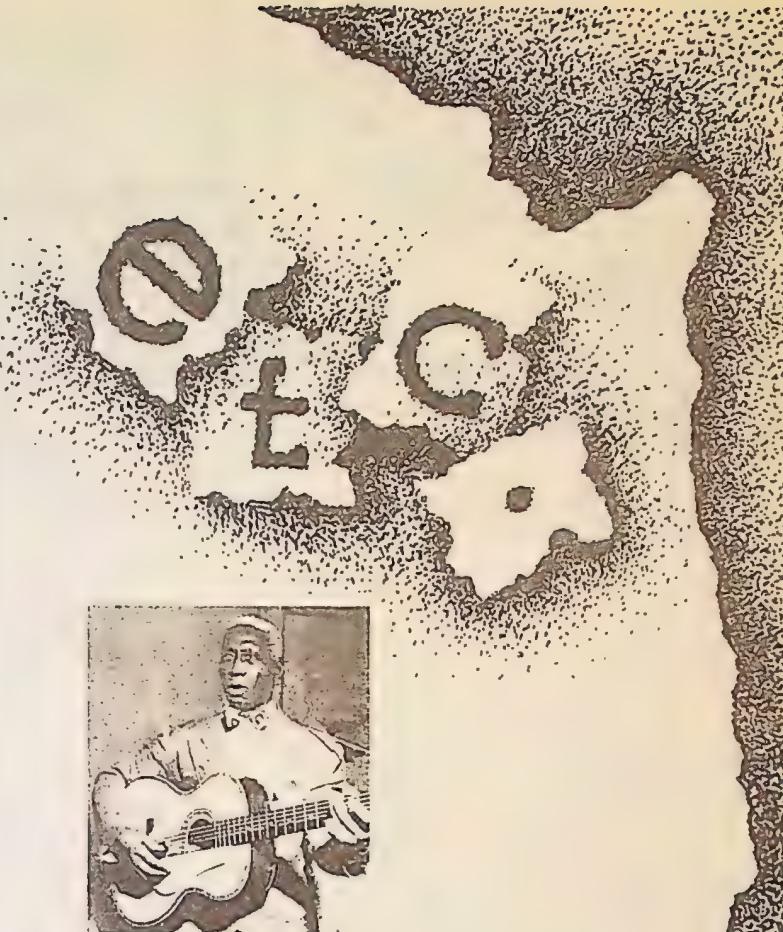
**Iron Horse:** God Street Wine **Pearl Street:** They Might Be Giants **Green River Cafe:** open mic. w/ Rob Skelton

**Vertex:** Reggae — New Horizon **Iron Horse:** New Radiant Storm King, The Veronica Cartwrights, Jessamin **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Readers & Writers, Live! — Wendy Kaminer



*Southgoing Zax at the Bay State Hotel*

Tobey photo



**THU**  
TWENTYNINE

**Vertex:** Selectrocution **Iron Horse:** Robert Earl Keen, Michael Smith **Alley Oops:** All Request w/ DJ Bobby C. **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Dave's Other Place:** Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights **Pearl Street:** Bim Skala Bim **Charlemont Inn:** open mic **Baystate Hotel:** Songwriters Showcase — Gideon Freudmann, Johnny Memphis, and many more

**FRI**  
THIRTY

**Baystate Hotel:** Baystate Cabaret — New Radiant Storm King, Media Darlings, Backwash **Dave's Other Place:** Bill Holloman Group **Green River Cafe:** John O'Connor **Alley Oops:** Time Trippers **Pearl Street:** Col. Bruce Hampton & The Aquarium Rescue Unit **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Vertex:** Slowpoke, Fallout **Iron Horse:** Adrian Legg **Shea Theater:** The Odd Couple **Hotel Northampton:** Jac Veronesi, Tom Savoy

**SAT**  
ONE

**Alley Oops:** Perfect Stranger **City Cafe:** DJ w/ dance music **Iron Horse:** Christine Lavin **Green River Cafe:** Cordelia's Dad **Baystate Hotel:** The Vindicators, and (possibly) John Felice **Pearl Street:** The Big Bad Bollocks **Vertex:** Selectrocution **Peking Garden/HumorWorks:** Finalists in Funniest Person Around Campus Competition **Dave's Other Place:** Scott Sasanecki **Huke Lau/Comedy Connection:** Carrot Top **Shea Theater:** The Odd Couple

**SUN**  
TWO

**Alley Oops:** New Country w/ DJ Mike P. **Iron Horse:** Tom Rush **Vertex:** Fat Tuesday, The Mighty Sturgeon **Amherst College:** Iain Matthews **Pearl Street:** Digable Planets, D-Influence

**MON**  
THREE

**Baystate Hotel:** Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & the Fabulous Heavyweights **Iron Horse:** Acoustic Junction

**TUE**  
FOUR

**Iron Horse:** Boiled in Lead, Tarika Sammy **Northampton Center for the Arts:** Readers and Writers, Live! — Steve Erickson **Vertex:** Eden, Lost City

**WED**  
FIVE

**Vertex:** The Fabulous Thunderbirds **Bay State Hotel:** Hector, Flying Buttress, Lumber

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MON 26

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TUE 27

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JESSAMIN

THU 29

WRSI presents

ROBERT EARL KEEN,  
MICHAEL SMITH

FRI 30

ARDIAN LEGG

SAT 1

CHRISTINE LAVIN

SUN 2

TOM RUSH

MON 3

ACOUSTIC JUNCTION

TUE 4

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TARIKA SAMMY

THU 6 & FRI 7

THE BOBS

SAT 8

THE STORY

SUN 9

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## WILM Channel 56 program guide

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### 28 WEDNESDAY

#### 8:00 Barney's Wall Street

Lovable, huggable Barney discusses the latest in market trends and hostile take-overs. A financial program for children of all ages.

#### 8:30 This Old Shoe

Host "Heels" Gugfuff visits a South Carolina shoe repairman as they re-sole some penny loafers. Heels talks to customers about their insteps. Special guest Mel Tormé delights regulars at the shoe shop with a medley of Tin Pan Alley classics.

#### 9:00 The Gourmet Guy cc

New Jersey Immigrants—Jeff travels to Newark and uncovers the secret to successful grilled cheese & tater tots.

#### 9:30 Cleaning Up With Hank cc

Hank tackles last week's baked-on-grease from Julia Child's Sole à la Meunière and the Pizza Chef's Linguine Squidballs. He sets Jeff's cookie sheets and cast-iron skillet in the pre-wash basin to soak overnight.

#### 10:00 The Metropolitan Opera Presents

I Just Found Me A Quarter—This semi-autobiographical opera by renowned Icelandic composer Hkghktgkkg covers the life of a recently-retired guy who wears baggy shorts with black polyester socks, and spends his afternoons in public parks searching for pocket change with a metal detector. Bertold Butow plays Hkghktgkkg, and Placebo Toledo (who delivers the opera's only aria) plays the metal detector.

#### 12:30 Jolly Cheerio, I Do Say Old Chap!

This uproarious Brit-Com concerns two single women and their crazy hijinks when living with a single man who is klutzy as all get-out!

### 29 THURSDAY

#### 8:00 TUVA cc s

Memorizing Really Big Numbers—TUVA finds that the number 154,992,576,809,143,675,113.4 not only has no practical application but is also hard to remember.

#### 9:00 Mystery Frontline! cc

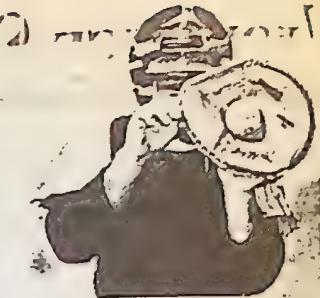
In an attempt to cut costs, we at WILM have fashioned a show out of thirty minutes each from two popular hour-long programs. Tonight's episode pits the cunning 19th-Century French Inspector Poirot against several bureaucrats in Langley, Virginia who deny masterminding an American operation responsible for airdropping lemon meringue on Buenos Aires during recent elections in Argentina.

#### 10:00 Woodstock '93: Love & Mini-Vans

Four ex-roadies from Canned Heat as well as a Melanie impersonator gather at the famous Yasgur site in upstate New York to reminisce, play a little badminton and discuss aluminum recycling. (Melanion's latest CD can be ordered through the station for a pledge of \$75.)

#### 11:00 Charlie Rosary

High School guidance counselor and WNET talk show host Charlie Rosary interviews America's best and finest. Tonight he swaps one-liners with the Vice President and asks that question on the minds of so many food consumers today, "Whither Beatrice?"



HOW MANY BOARDS  
WOULD THE MONGOLS HOARD,  
IF THE MONGOL HORDES  
GOT BORED?



# VIOLENCE SONATA



The Valley  
**COMIC**  
N·E·W·S

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**PRES**ENT

**They Might Be Giants**  
with Brian Dewann

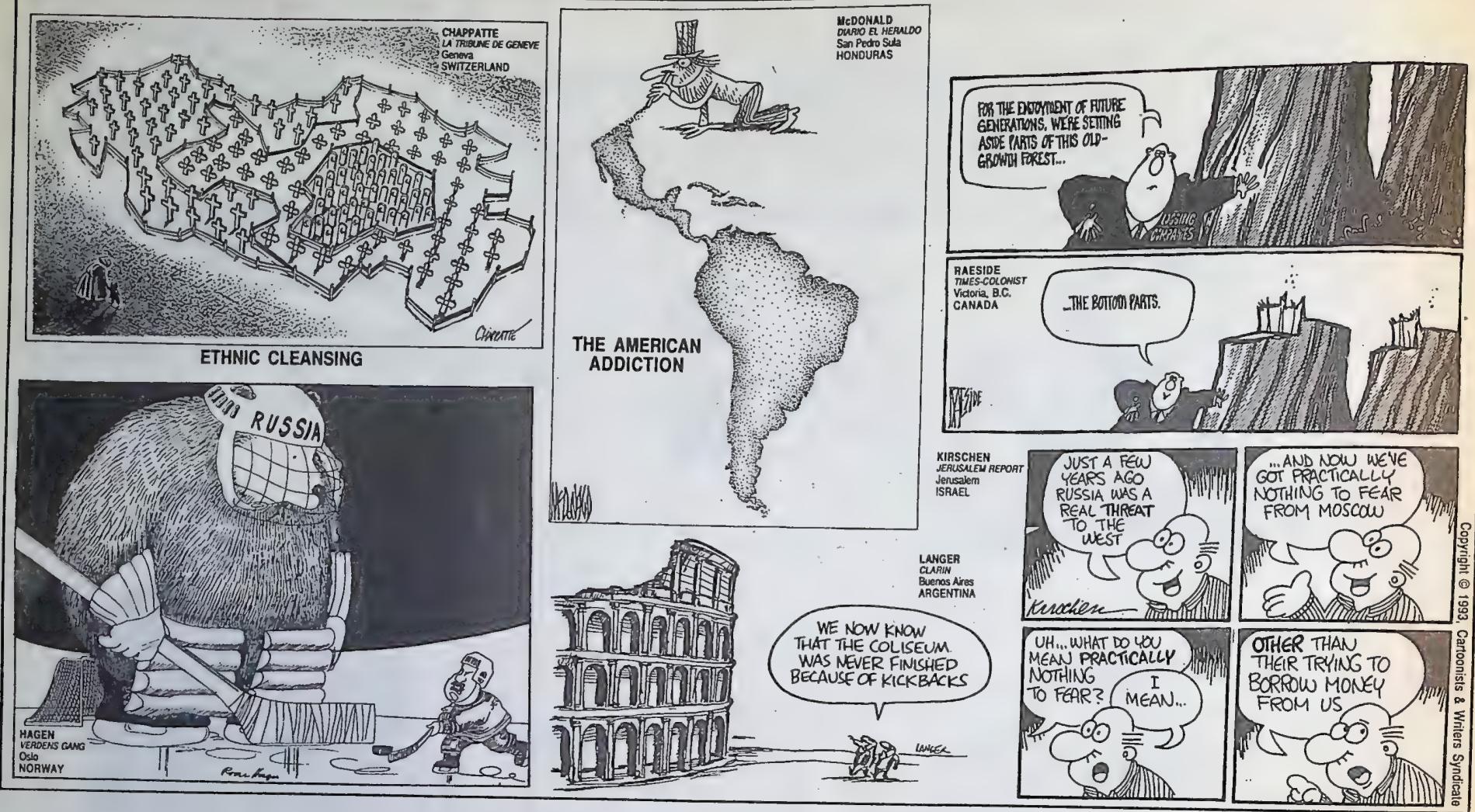


Tuesday, April 27 at 8pm

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# VIEWS OF THE WORLD



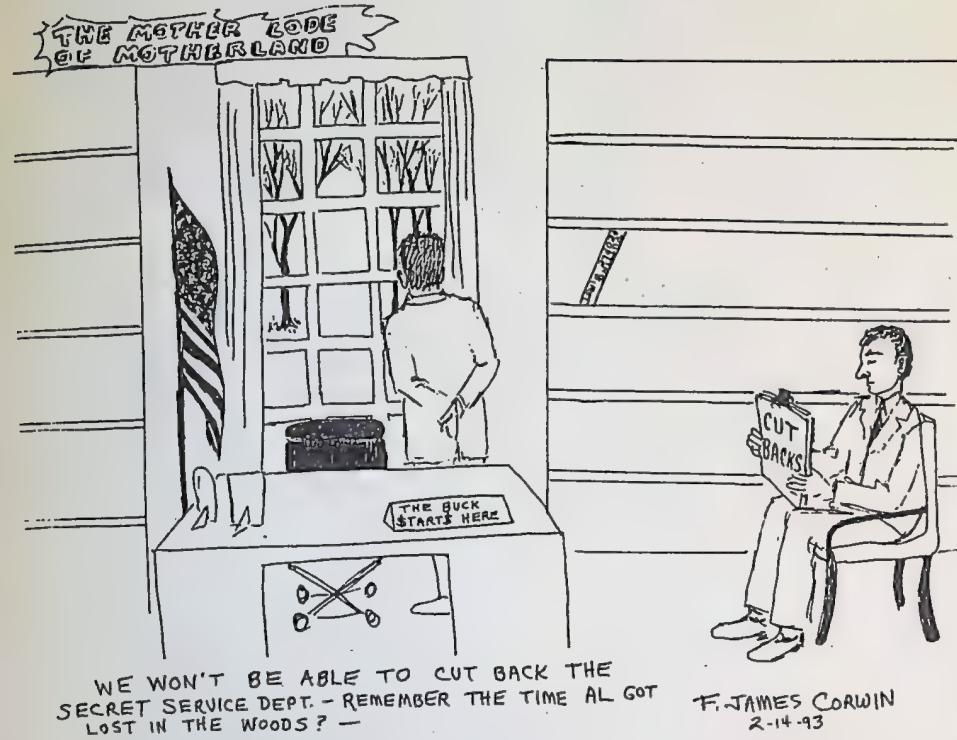
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GATHER FELLOW EXPATRIATES, LARGE BOX O' KLEENEX, AND WATCH FILMS SHOT IN HOMETOWN WHILE CONSUMING VAST QUANTITIES OF NATIVE GRUB...



Maria Talcott of Northampton has a good Comic News laugh outside Bill & Hillary's place

# LOCAL HEROES

BY GILES HOPKINS

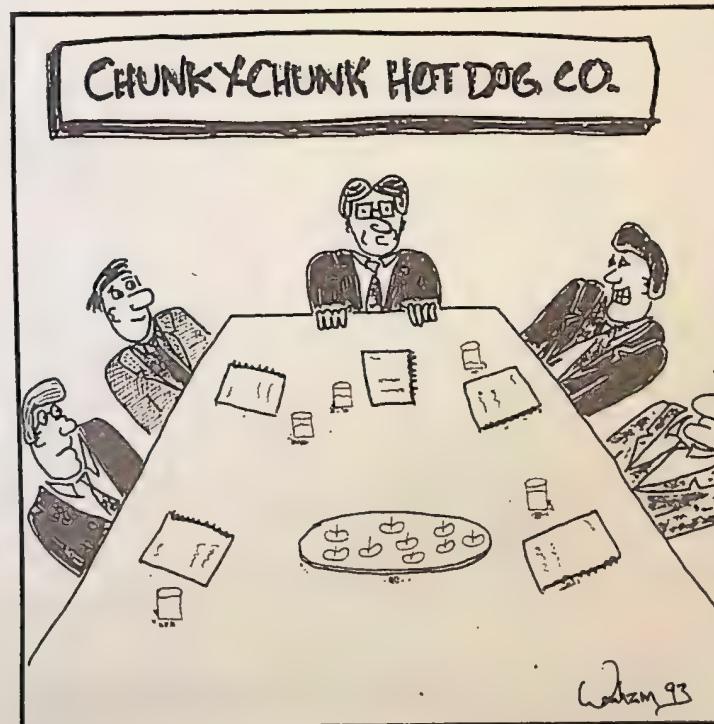


F. JAMES CORWIN  
2-14-93

THE COW THAT JUMPED  
OVER THE MOON  
AFTER BURNING UPON  
RE-ENTRY INTO THE  
EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE

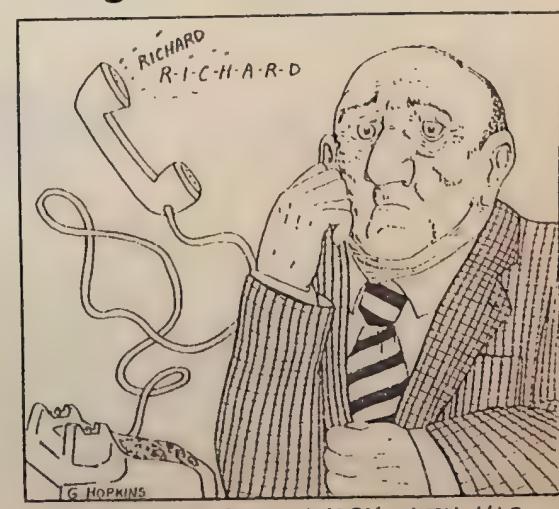


The Old Man and the C



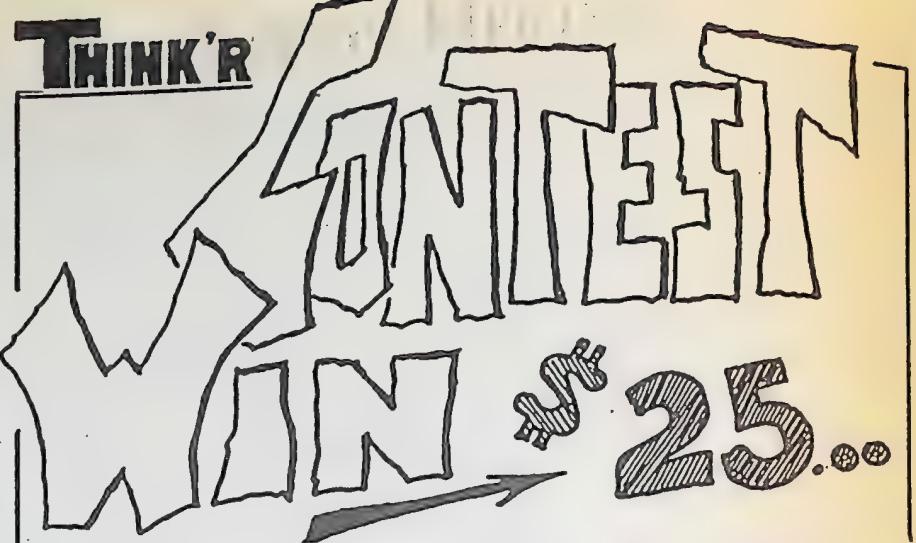
"Gentlemen, I've gathered you here today to announce the imminent debut of our newest and greatest product. a timely and delicious answer to the health-conscious 90's. I give you CRYSTAL DOG: The Clear Wiener."

dog feathers by Giles Hopkins

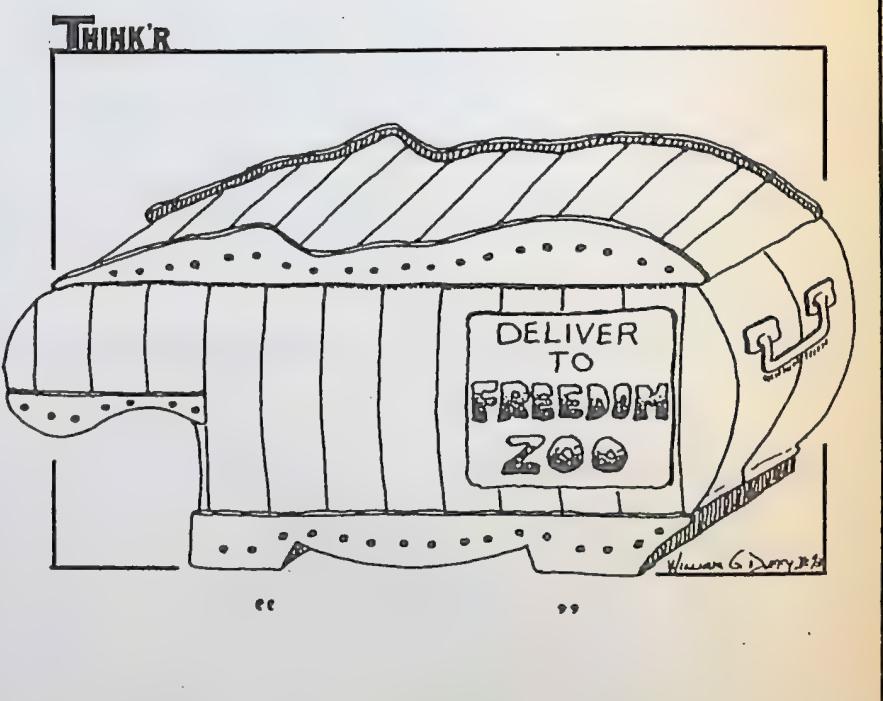


RICHARD WAS STILL ANGRY WITH HIS MOTHER FOR A PROTRACTED LABOR AND DIFFICULT DELIVERY. HE PUT HER ON HOLD WHENEVER SHE CALLED.

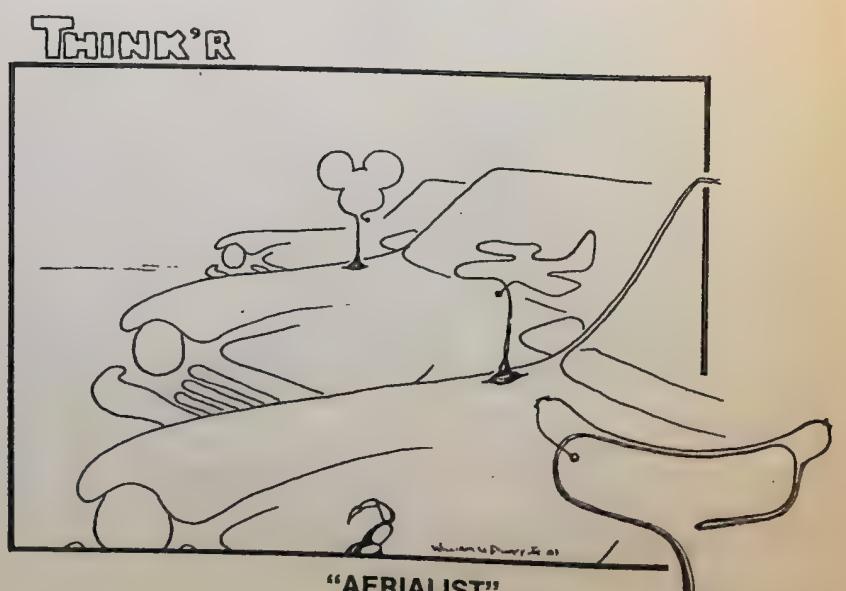
# THE WAGES OF SIN



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Below is an example of Think'R's wordplay:



**Radiation Blast**

 A cloud of radioactive debris streamed across Siberia after a tank at a nuclear waste depot exploded. Russian authorities said it was fortunate that the wind blew the radiation away from the Tomsk-7 plant and the nearby city of Tomsk, with a population of 500,000.

Russian officials contradicted each other about the gravity of the chemical blast, with some denying the existence of a radioactive cloud while others minimized the cloud's effects. Uranium and plutonium salts were released into the atmosphere when the plant exploded, and Greenpeace warned that several villages near the Yenisey River were threatened with fallout.

**Floods**

 At least 30 people died as a result of floods and mudslides in southern Ecuador. One inundation in the Andes threatened to burst an earthen dike that is preventing water from wiping out 3,200 acres of sugar cane, wheat, and corn crops.

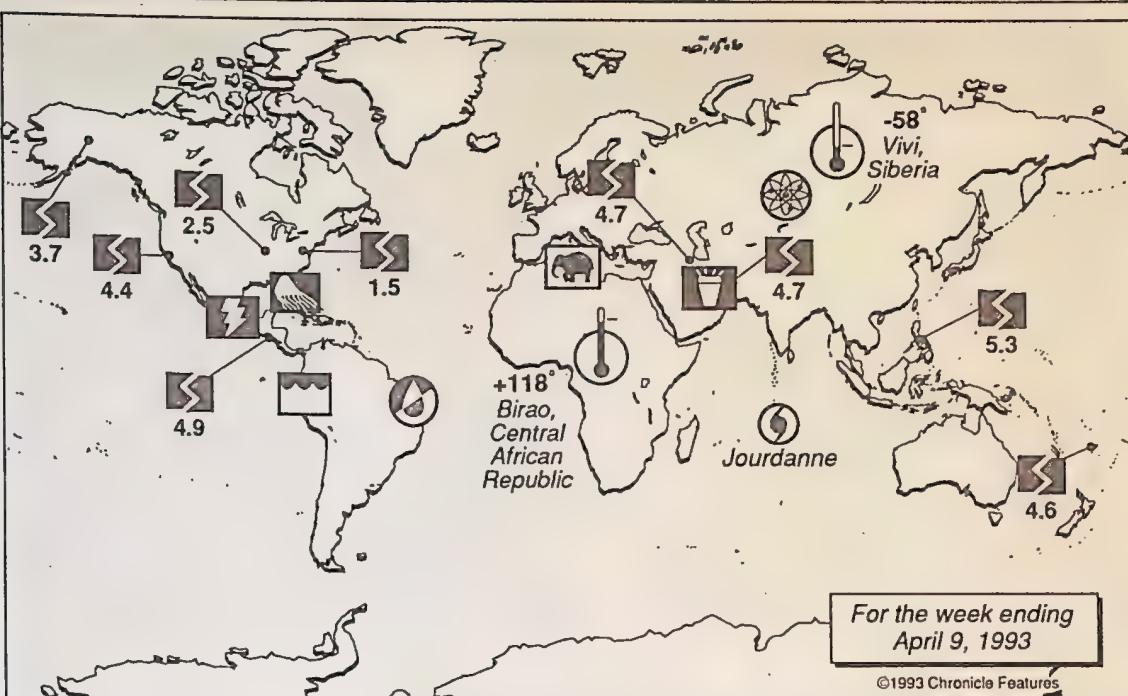
**Earthquakes**

 Seismic activity rattled the Chesapeake Bay area for a fourth consecutive week from an epicenter near the city of Columbia, Maryland.

Earth movements were also felt in central Alaska, Missouri, the Fiji Islands, western Nicaragua, the central Philippines, south and northwest Iran, and central California.

**Spring Lightning**

 A freak hailstorm in southern Mexico left at least two people dead and dozens injured or homeless. The storm hit the state of Oaxaca, uprooting trees and posts, and leaving a 1-foot layer of hail on the ground in the state capital. The two victims were struck by lightning during the hour-long storm.



For the week ending  
April 9, 1993

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**Elephant Stock**

 African tourism ministers have drafted a scheme to promote travel to their countries by selling shares in elephants, then letting shareholders shoot the beasts 10 years later. Meeting in Tunis, the Economic Commission for Africa announced that the financial arrangement with the would-be hunters would provide for the animals' upkeep and for thinning the herds as needed. Their report proposes to create an international exchange in elephant shares, buyers of which would be "required to pay a yearly fee for the upkeep of their animals."

ing peasants raid state food depots, supermarkets, and outdoor stalls. "They come green with hunger, wailing like dogs," said 10-year-old Evandro Viera Guimaraes, a homeless youth who had to fight off starving mobs from his market fruit stall in Serra Talhada.

**Tropical Storm**

 Severe tropical cyclone Jourdanne churned the open waters of the central Indian Ocean with maximum sustained winds of 80 miles per hour.

**Jelly Babies**

 Researchers in eastern Florida, puzzled by welts reported by swimmers in late spring and early summer, have discovered they are caused by tiny jellyfish. The sores appear when the larvae of jellyfish get trapped inside a bathing suit, researchers reported in the Journal of American Medical Association. "People were worried they had live organisms growing

under their skin," said Dr. Robert S. Tomchik, professor of epidemiology at the University of Miami. The researchers took some of the suspected sea lice, raised them to adulthood, and discovered they all developed into thimble jellyfish, whose larvae look like black pepper in the ocean and are practically invisible.

**Gold Caps**

 A goat slaughtered and cooked by aides to a Muslim cleric in southern Iran was found to have golden teeth, according to the Tehran newspaper, Salam. Jewelers in Lamard, called in to test the teeth, confirmed that they were covered by a .12-inch film of gold, the newspaper said. Sages in the town said that a kind of grass grew in the region which gave golden teeth to animals which grazed upon it, Salam added.

*Additional Sources: U. S. Climate Analysis Center, U. S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.*

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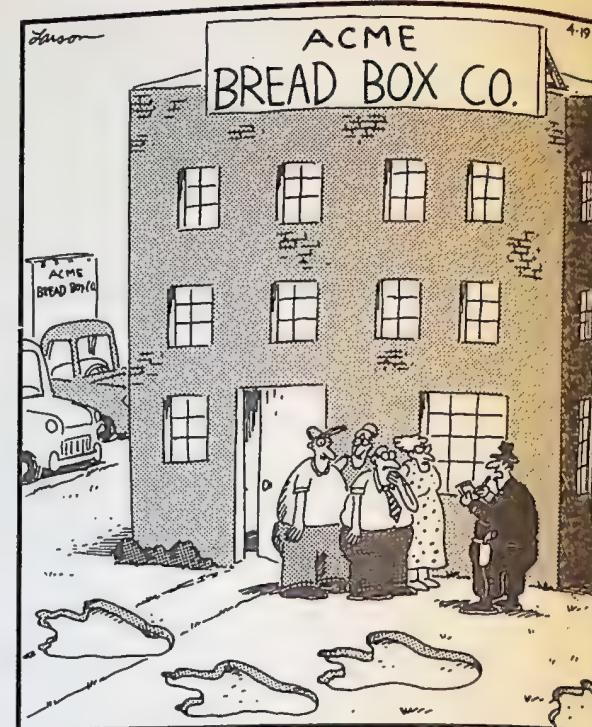
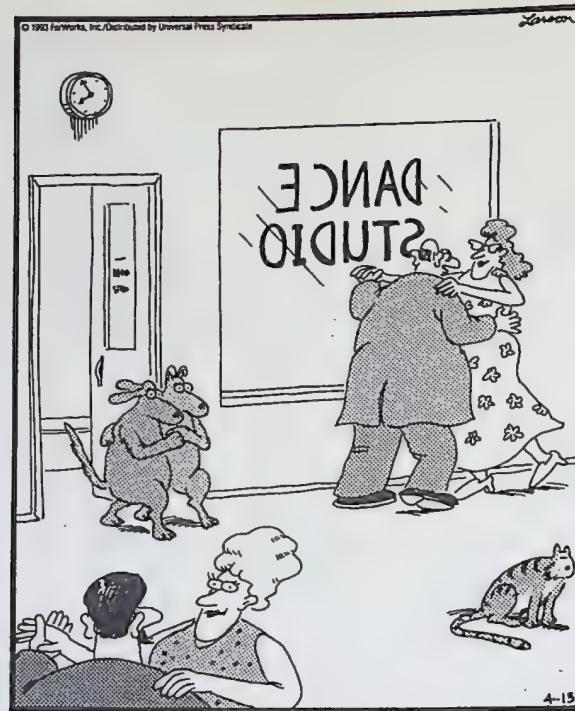
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# THE FAR SIDE

BY GARY LARSON



"One more time: You were at the park, enjoying the afternoon, when you distinctly heard the defendant turn to his dog and say: 'Look, boy! A stickman!'"

As witnesses later recalled, two small dogs just waltzed into the place, grabbed the cat, and waltzed out.

"OK, OK! Calm down, everyone! ... This monster — would you say he was bigger or smaller than your building? ... You can talk it over."



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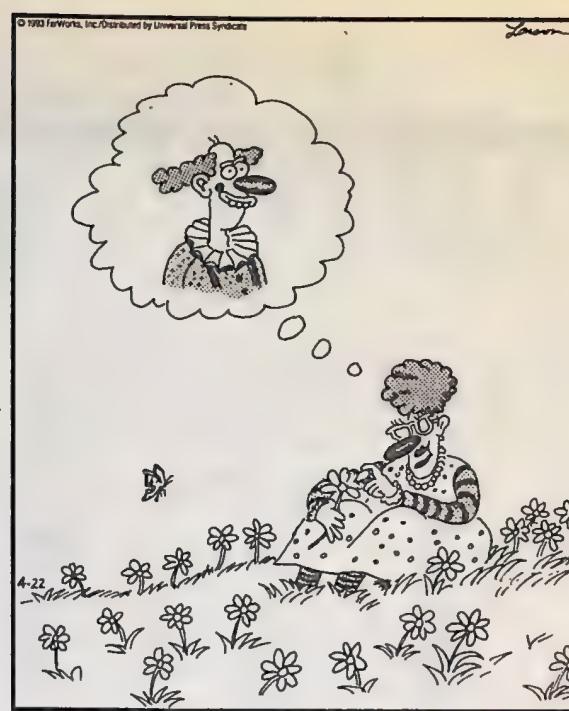


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© 1987 FarWorks, Inc./Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate  
Rocking the anthropological world, a second "Lucy" is discovered in southern Uganda.



"He kids me ... he kids me not. ... He kids me ... he kids me not. ... "



© 1990 FarWorks, Inc./Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate  
"Hey! You're not lookin' to buy anything, are you? I think you best just keep movin', buddy."



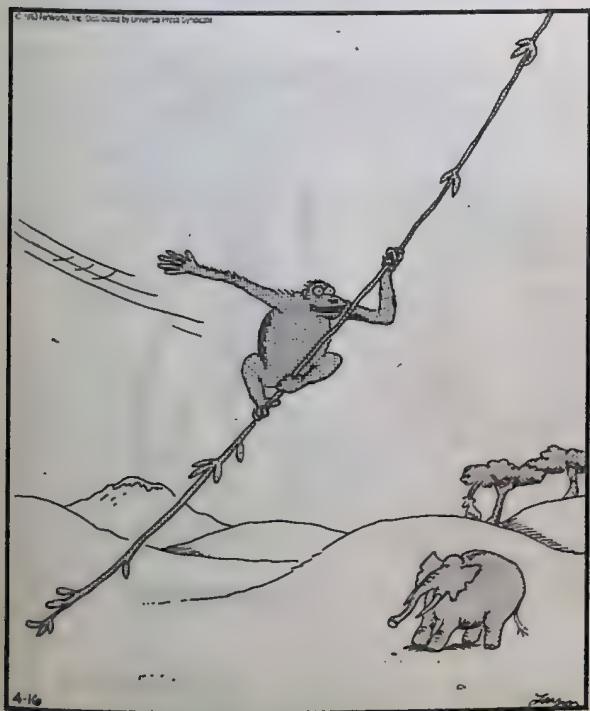
Only Bernard, in the front row, had the nerve to laugh at Death.



Rusty makes his move.



© 1987 FarWorks, Inc./Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate  
"Am I glad you boys came along! ... My horse seems to have come up lame."



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He had seen Tanzania, and most of Mozambique was already behind him. There was no mistake. Chippy had done what most chimps only dream about: He had caught the Perfect Vine.



© 1990 FarWorks, Inc./Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate  
"Oh, God! Here comes Finchley! ... He's out of the closet, you know — says he kills only for food, not pleasure."



# Leold at 15

by Roger&Salem Salloom

I was so happy the other day because my girl and I figured out that one of her biggest problems is fear of abandonment.

So.... I told her I'd never leave her.

Then she told me one of her other biggest problems is that she is afraid of commitment.

So, I told her that soon I would drop her, and she would be free!

That didn't seem to help.

So then, I told her I was going to prison for five years.

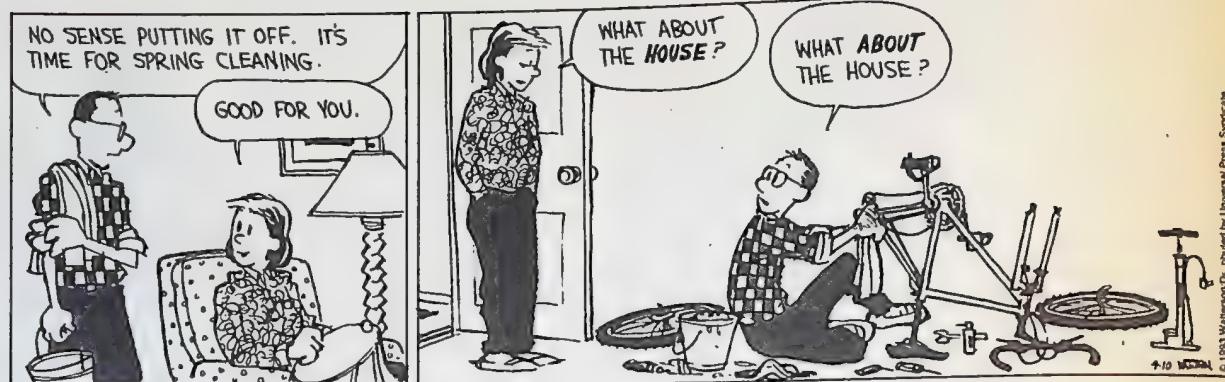
That made her feel much better.

Love is magic.



# calvin and Hobbes

by BILL WATTERSON

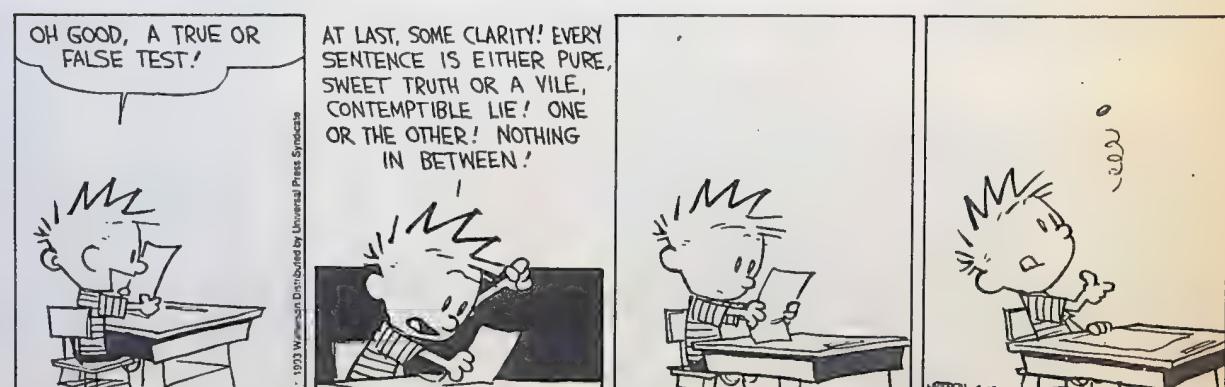


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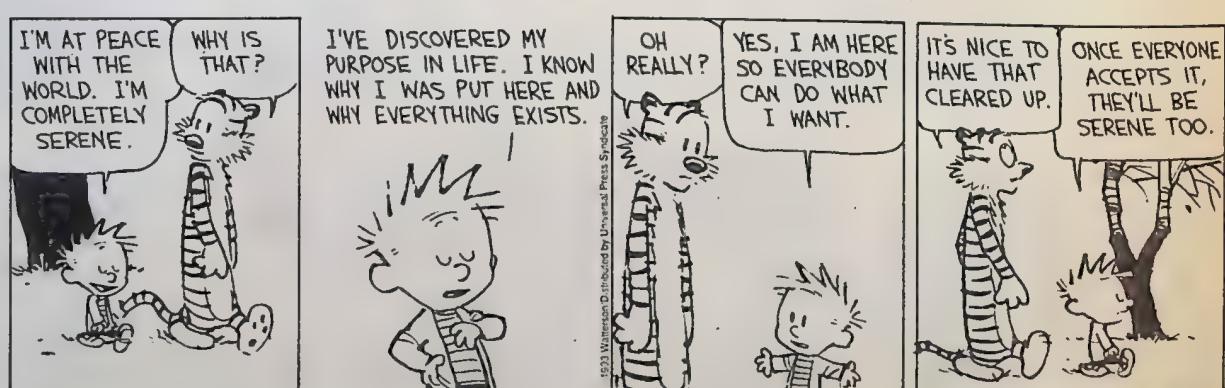
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MARCH 4/12



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# humor me

by Izzy Gesell

To a pedestrian strolling NYC's Madison Avenue on a winter's day, the atrium in the lobby of the IBM building is an oasis from the bitter wind and sandy reality of a walk uptown. Sunlight floods the large indoor space. The metal-mesh tables and chairs whisper "patio." The potted trees and artfully sparse plants are much too big for anyone's apartment.

These public spaces at the base of many high-rise buildings in NY are little jewels on the feet of the ugly stepmothers of progress. They're the results of a city requirement that developers who gobble up precious open space in the city and regurgitate architectural equivalents of Monster Trucks must provide the displaced citizenry with some room to pause, read the paper, and watch the world go by.

I'm sitting in one of the metal chairs that are cleverly constructed to look inviting, but are only comfortable for about 15 minutes before the onset of "spilkes," the Yiddish word for splinters. Out on the avenue, a tall man passing the IBM building stops, his glance arrested by a mammoth stone flower pot within the lobby. This pot is at least three feet high and six feet around. Thrusting from the pot are 25 stalks of bright orange flowers that have caused the man to suspend his uptown journey and turn left to enter the building.

I watch the man shuffle slowly into the lobby from the street, through the revolving door. I notice him leaning back on the door as it turns, grateful for even that nanosecond of rest. He is homeless, I assume; at least he looks homeless to me. I can therefore dismiss him as one human being who is entitled to my vague empathy, but not to any concrete, specific, or personal action. I gave at the office.

From the other side of the lobby, near the bank of elevators, a uniformed security guard straightens up. His languid gaze is now sharp and focused on the tall man in the dirty, blue parka that is the uniform of the Have Nots, the visiting team in the American Dream. Looking neither left nor right, the tall man is deposited into the lobby. With his aura emitting a sense of destination most homeless people can only reminisce about, he walks pointedly to the flower pot which is a few feet from the entrance. Bending respectfully toward the flowers, he smells them one at a time. His nose tastes each stalk until he circumnavigates the flower pot and leaves the building through the revolving door. His entire dance has been a circle -- an orbit in which a foreign planet dares enter a solar system that is unwelcoming but familiar, in order to remind these heavily bodies that they do not exist by themselves in the universe.

The guard relaxes and slumps lower against the wall. The tall man shuffles up Madison Avenue, a bit taller for having stopped to smell the flowers.

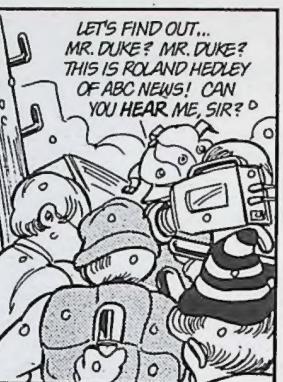
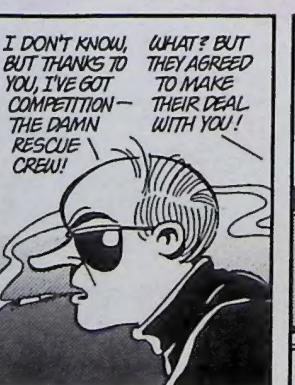
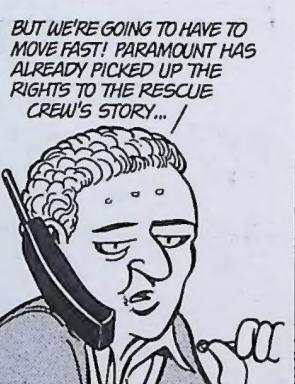
Inside the IBM building, it's 5 PM. Streams of workers are exiting, most preoccupied with layoff notices, reduced ability to be happy, or vague feelings of discontent. The only people at the flower pot are killing time, waiting for someone else.



# Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU





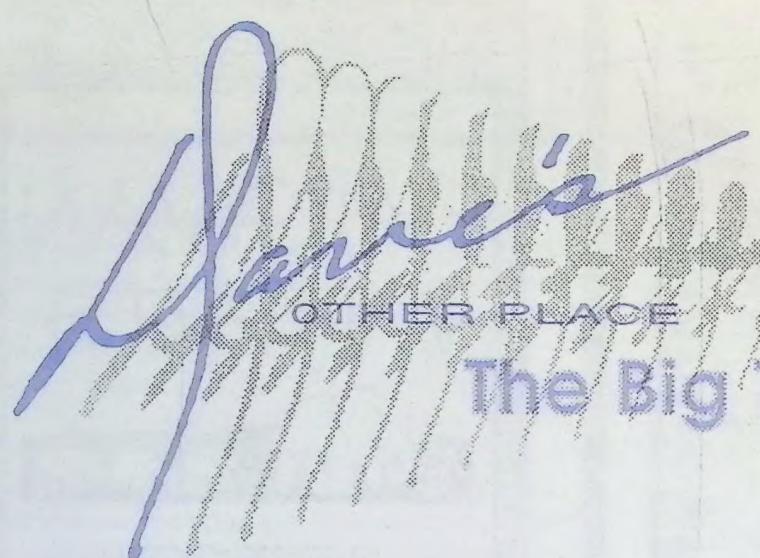
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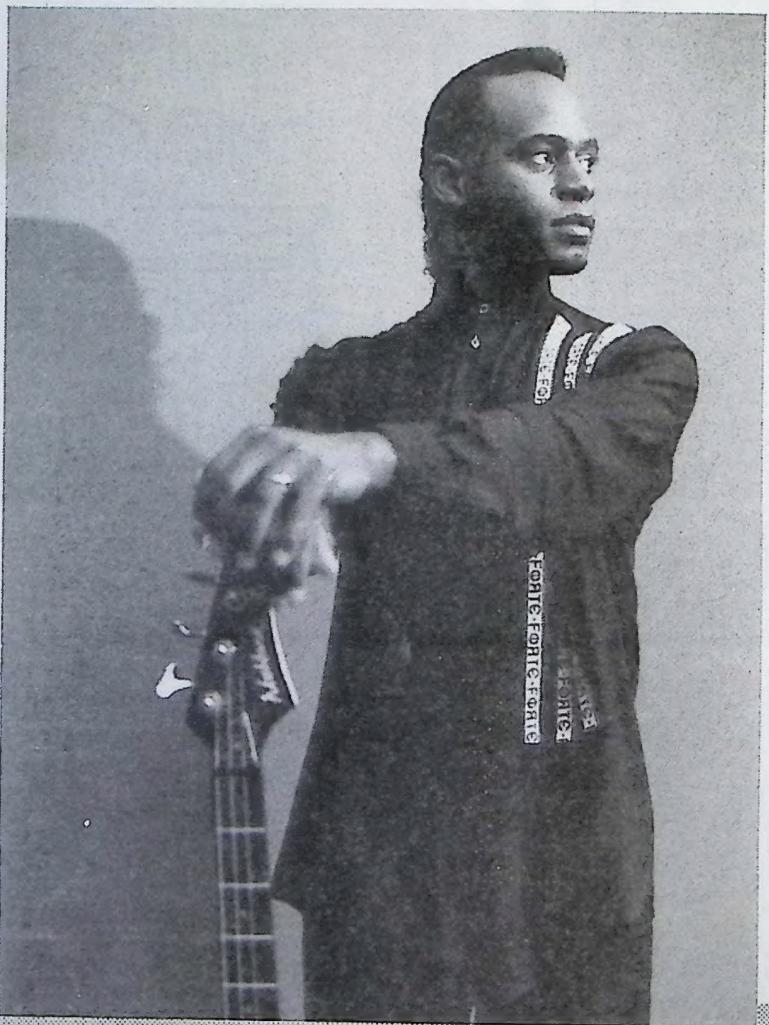
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